



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FOSTERING

Q. What is the time commitment necessary to foster shelter animals?

- A. Weaned animals may require 3-6 hours a day, injured animals 2-3 hours a day, bottle babies (un-weaned) 8 hours a day, and mom with litter 3 hours a day.

Q. What supplies are needed to foster? How much will it cost?

- A. The DACC tries to provide food and some supplies to foster parents, but due to the large intake of animals needing fostering, this is not always available. Foster parents may need to provide space, food, and love for the animal(s). The animal care center will provide you with some supplies, medications, and veterinary care, if needed.

Q. Do I have to live in the area of the animal care center the animal is from to be its foster parent?

- A. Yes, so that you can receive proper support we ask that those wishing to foster an animal from any of our six animal care centers live in the area the animal is fostered from. We do not foster animals out to individuals living in other states or countries.

Q. Do I need to have prior medical knowledge or expertise?

- A. No, but you may be asked to dispense medicine to your foster, so you will have to be comfortable following veterinarian's instructions if fostering a sick or injured animal.

Q. If I have my own animals, can I still foster?

- A. Yes, but keep in mind that it is always a health risk to expose your animal to other animals. The health risk is minimal if your animals are current on their vaccinations, maintain a healthy diet and lifestyle, and are not elderly or very young.

Q. What if I have small children?

- A. Fostering is a wonderful family experience and can build a foundation of philanthropy in your children. It is important to select an animal that is "age" appropriate with your children. You must also be diligent about providing guidance, instructions, and rules to your children about caring for an orphaned or special needs animal.

Q. What if I want to adopt my foster animal?

- A. If your foster animal becomes available for adoption; foster parents get first priority to adopt their foster animal. As long as foster parents meet the animal care center requirements necessary for adoption and do not exceed the limit for owned animals in your city, you may adopt your foster animal.

Q. Can I find my own adopter for my foster pet?

- A. Absolutely! Take pictures of them and show them to all the good people you know would be responsible owners. Return them to the shelter when they are ready and if you have time, be there on a busy day to "sell" them to the public. Bring them to the next community adoption event. DO NOT ever give the animal to anyone without having returned it to the shelter for spay/neuter surgery (if needed), the proper paperwork and receipts completed.

DACC staff may also demand the return of and or remove a foster animal from a foster home for any reason they deem necessary.